

## ENEMIES OF GRASSHOPPERS.

**What They Are and the Chances of Turning Them to Account.**

Gr troublesome recently in Kansas and where in the west. The Department of Agriculture has been trying to find out what creatures prey upon these destructive insects. One of their natural foes could be encouraged naturally or could be artificially propagated. The mightiest of these is the bird of prey, the infested regions. Among them are several kinds of birds—for example, the butcher which has such a curious habit of imitating small birds, lizards and other prey that it imitates on thorns. These feathered executioners commonly use the sharp barbs of barbed wire to impale grasshoppers upon, and are driving east in great numbers. They are thought to see hundreds of "hoppers" thus trussed within a short space. Probably the birds are devouring grasshoppers in the Arkansas state, 120,000 of which have been killed, a species of bird, sometimes called a "star bird," has consumed 100 of the insects in a single day.

**THE FENCE LIZARD.**

There is a small reptile out west known as a fence lizard, which catches and eats a many grasshoppers. The species is very mon in the infested regions. Skunks are active enemies of the insect and have known to ascend trees for the purpose of getting them. For obvious reasons it will be practicable to encourage these part mammals, but no such objection would to fods, which are apt to swarm wherever "hoppers" are, gobbling the latter gr

Many planters in California employ flocking for the purpose of freeing their orchards and vineyards of insects. The birds will destroy an almost incredible number of insects in a single day. Incidentally, the birds are fed at the cheapest possible rate. They are so numerous that sometimes they devour many of the insects that they are supposed to destroy.

Common barnyard fowls are likewise voracious destroyers of grasshoppers. In one orchard owned by a special agent of the Department of Agriculture, an orchard containing 360 acres was attacked by a grasshopper swarm last year. The house and barn situated in the middle of the orchard, and the chickens housed around them over an area of six acres, were completely free of grasshoppers. In a green oasis in the desert, the trees where else having been stripped of their leaves by the voracious insects.

**A WASP THAT KILLS.**  
Among the predaceous insects the species which probably destroys the greatest number of grasshoppers is the black wasp. The female digs her burrow in the earth and provides it with "hoppers," which she catches on the wing and stupefies them by repeatedly thrusting her stinging into their bodies. The victim becomes paralyzed and the wasp gets outside of it, and

Having placed it in the bottom of the burrow she deposits one or more eggs upon it and with her fore feet fills the burrow up with it. Thus, when the eggs hatch out the young will find plenty of nutritious food. So to do the wasp occupy herself in this work that she may be seen searching for grasshoppers all through the summer. Curious enough, she always seems to select the largest and fattest for her work.

Grasshoppers have also certain animal sites which prey upon them and kill nothing remaining of their corpses small more shells. Individuals thus affected been gathered for the purpose of propagating the mischief among their kind. Healthy

ones have been placed with the infected birds and "choppers," and, when they have been taken from the infected areas, they have come from those areas and have been placed in the same. Finally, numbers of the diseased birds will be scattered in the fields with all the spreading the complaint. How effective the method will be remains to be seen.

Some apprehension has been felt recently in certain parts of the west respecting the wingless insect known as "western cicadas" which have their home in the sage-brush near their distribution reaching over the Great Lake basin into northern Oregon, eastern Idaho, western Montana, and occasionally Wyoming. These remarkable insects do not move over the country as the locusts do, but sleep sometimes, although usually the sleep wandering about singly or in pairs feeding upon the scanty vegetation of the country. Under the rule, such groups are confined to a regular, definite range.

fers some particular plant as its chief diet. A few of the different kinds have thus far been studied at all as to their habits and life history, and most of them as yet pause to mislead the student.

Two species of these crickets appeared last year in great numbers over an extensive territory, one vast warm, that spread over the region drained by the Mialde river, covering a large nine miles long by three miles wide. These eggs, and larvae are extremely common in the country, and are often taken by their progeny during the present season by many other insects when they descend in excessive numbers, the desire to move in great crowds seems to seize these crickets.

At such periods they move toward the river point, and are often seen in the water after which they glide on down the river.

particular direction. When moving they neither to the right nor to the left, but keep in a direct line, even plunging into streams which happen to run across their line of travel. When such streams are encountered, if no large, they are soon filled to such an extent that the oncoming herds are enabled to cross on the bodies of the leading hosts. It is true that the cowboys draw a "drive" of sheep when they have stopped to feed, but such times they are often "herded off" grass and fields of grain.

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Agreed With the Cowboy.  
From the Detroit Free Press.

A great deal has been written about the untamed attributes of the Texan cowboy; an incident witnessed by the writer in a rail train down south seemed to indicate that terror of the plains is possessed of many pleasing characteristics. The train was pulling out of Laredo when a woman with child entered the car and took a seat in front of a Texan whose appearance was far from pleasing. He had tangled black hair, his teeth were tucked into his boots and he looked mean enough to steal a horse. He seemed, however, to feel much interested in the pro-

for the child and the responses of the mother for something like a grim smile lighted upon unprepossessing features. When the conductor came around the mother presented two tickets, one for half fare.

"This won't do," said the conductor gruffly. "That child is more than twelve."

"Oh, no; indeed he isn't."

"Just I say he is, and you must pay."

"I have no money. I tell you."

"Then you'll have to get off."

Here the Texan interposed.

"I reckon not." He touched his revolver significantly and looked the conductor square in the face. "I reckon Mr. Conductor will let that child go."

75 "Well, he might be," he said, and tu  
50 away. Then the woman murmured her tha  
75 but the Texan's face resumed its former  
00 pression and no one, to look at him, w  
have deemed him capable of a kindly action

**Somewhat Eccentric.**  
From the Albany Evening Journal.

A strange case of insanity has recently come to light at Ballston. The unfortunate patient is Charles H. Morris, thirty-two years of age and an expert accountant. He has for a long time been known as a man of many eccentricities.

practical jokes by sporting men. It is thought that constant joking and teasing have been a potent factor in impairing his mental faculties. He has several times lately left town for a few days, sometimes on business, sometimes on pleasure, and before leaving caused to be published in the local papers paragraphs to the effect that he "had gone to New York

Fifth Avenue Hotel." About two months before the wedding invitations were sent out announcing that Morris was about to marry a well-known young woman from another town. The invitations were both on one side, but on the day of the wedding Morris did not show up, and remained in town, denying that he had received any such invitation. He is considered a confirmed bachelor.

He Pressed the Hand.  
From the Chinese Inter-Ocean.

Hard of Remembering.  
From Harper's Bazar.  
"Is Bronson as forgetful as ever?"  
"More so. Why, that fellow has to look h